



STATE
SENATOR
Wayne Kuipers
30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Senate Republicans Battle Aquatic Nuisance Species

A Senate Republican proposal to create a multi-state coalition to battle aquatic nuisance species was unveiled recently. The legislation would authorize the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to enter into an agreement with other Great Lakes basin states to create the Great Lakes Aquatic Nuisance Coalition. The coalition would specifically enable each state's respective water pollution enforcement agency to participate in the regional regulation of ballast water from ocean-going vessels entering Great Lakes' ports and harbors.

Regulatory Reforms to Aid Michigan's Economy, Promote Environmental Stewardship

Senate Republicans announced a package of bills that would reduce Michigan's regulatory burden on businesses as part of their plan to strengthen Michigan's economy. The package addresses a number of regulatory issues, including:

- Providing clear rules and fair fees to businesses seeking air quality permits;
- Offering incentives for companies that attain Clean Corporate Citizen status;
- Enhancing Brownfield redevelopment opportunities;
- Engaging the private sector in wastewater treatment; and
- Exposing burdensome administrative rules.

Notification of Stolen or Misused Personal Information

Legislation (Senate Bill 309) requiring companies to notify Michigan residents when their personal, credit or medical information has been stolen or misused was introduced in the Michigan Senate this week. Last month ChoicePoint, a national data aggregating company, announced that the personal information of 145,000 United States residents was stolen in October 2004. Currently, California is the only state with a law that requires companies to notify affected individuals when their information is stolen or used for fraudulent purposes.

Agricultural Processing Apprenticeship Program

Agricultural processors could provide job opportunities to help individuals entering the workforce acquire necessary industry skills under legislation passed in the Senate. Senate Bill 223 would create an agricultural processing apprenticeship program by giving a tax credit to participating processors. The apprenticeship program would focus on individuals between the ages of 16 and 20 enrolled in high school or a general education development program. Apprentices would learn about the agricultural processing industry through a hands-on educational experience. The program also would serve as an avenue for students who may not have the resources to obtain a formal education to gain skills and practical knowledge within the industry.